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ABSTRACT

Parent Services Project (PSP), the first comprehensive program of resources and mental health activities for parents offered at child care centers in the San Francisco Bay Area (California), has expanded to centers in six states, serving over 19,000 families. This report describes the program's history, aims, and achievements, along with specific activities, strategies, and principles that have been developed and refined during PSP's 17 years of existence. The report's first chapter, "Activities," is divided according to type of service and includes samples of how PSP agencies around the country implement the services. Activities are "Family Fun," "Adults Only," "Parents' Time Off," "For Many Cultures," "Involving Men," "Sick Child Care," and "Parent Options Fund." The descriptions conclude with tips based on the personal experiences of PSP staff and parents, which can help smooth the wrinkles out of initiating a new activity. The second chapter, "Organizing a PSP Program," describes the behind-the-scenes elements of PSP: how to ensure that parents get opportunities to develop leadership skills; how to staff a PSP program and then how to give staff the attention they need; how to deal with tough issues that can wreak havoc if left unattended; and how to build a coalition of PSP agencies. Contains 14 references. (EV)

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